

## Message Text

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21

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 L-03 EUR-25 EB-11 INR-10 NEA-10

SS-20 RSC-01 /113 R

66621

DRAFTED BY: AF/C:HJCOHEN:JHALL

APPROVED BY: AF/C:HJCOHEN

AF:DEASUM

AF/P:JALINEHAN (DRAFT)

IO/UNP:RREIS

AF/S:O'NEILL (DRAFT)

L/AF:BKHUFFMAN (DRAFT)

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R 162319Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077438

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, ETRD, US, DAU, RM

SUBJECT: GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO WISHES PURCHASE OF DC-8

IN U.S.

REF: A) ADDIS 2143 B) STATE 040556

1. PRESIDENT BONGO OF GABON HAS NEGOTIATED PURCHASE OF  
DC-8 AIRCRAFT FROM SEABOARD AIRLINES OF THE UNITED STATES.  
BOTH BONGO AND HIS FINANCE MINISTER HAVE SUBMITTED SIGNED  
LETTERS TO USG STATING THAT AIRCRAFT WOULD BE USED AS  
PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE PLANE, AND WHEN NOT USED BY HIM  
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WOULD BE UTILIZED BY UTA WHICH WOULD MAINTAIN THE AIRCRAFT.

LETTERS ALSO GIVE EXPLICIT ASSURANCES THAT AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE USED IN ANY WAY FOR TRADE WITH RHODESIA.

2. EMBASSY WILL RECALL OAU, UN SANCTIONS COMMITTEE AND OTHERS HAVE CRITICIZED USG FOR APPROVING 1972 SALE TO GABONESE COMPANY OF DC-8F REPORTEDLY UTILIZED SUBSEQUENTLY IN RHODESIA TRADE NOT WITHSTANDING PRIOR HIGH LEVEL GABONESE GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES TO CONTRARY. (F.Y.I. EXPORT LICENSE FOR LAST AIRCRAFT SPECIFIED THAT FUTURE LICENSES FOR SPARE PARTS AND AIRCRAFT WOULD BE CONDITIONAL UPON GABONESE COMPLIANCE WITH PREVIOUS ASSURANCES END F.Y.I.) IN LIGHT OF FOREGOING AND DESPITE BONGO'S MOST RECENT ASSURANCES, DEPT DESIRES VIEWS OF OAU BEFORE PROCEEDING FURTHER IN ITS CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR EXPORT LICENSE.

3. PRESIDENT BONGO EXPRESSED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ON NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY GROUNDS ABOUT DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO CONSULT WITH OAU, BUT AGREED TO PROCEDURE IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT. IN CONSEQUENCE, BONGO SENT TWO LETTERS DATED APRIL 13 TO OAU AND USG. FIRST LETTER ADDRESSED TO NEW YORK REP OF OAU SECRETARIAT INFORMED LATTER OF BONGO'S DESIRE TO PURCHASE DC-8-63 AIRCRAFT IN US FOR HIS PERSONAL USE AND TO BE OPERATED AND MAINTAINED BY UTA. LETTER WENT ON TO REQUEST THAT THIS INFO BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF OAU PRESIDENT, AND THAT USG BE ALSO INFORMED FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION (A TOUTES FINS UTILES). SECOND LETTER ADDRESSED TO U.S. AMBASSADOR FORWARDED COPY OF LETTER TO OAU AND ASKED THAT USG ISSUE EXPORT LICENSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY ADDIS REQUESTED DELIVER FOLLOWING NOTE TO OAU SECRETARIAT: (AFTER COMPLIMENTARY OPENING).

A) THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WOULD LIKE TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TO THE LETTER OF APRIL 13 ADDRESSED TO THE OAU REPRESENTATIVE AT NEW YORK FROM PRESIDENT ALBERT BERNARD BONGO OF GABON INFORMING THE ORGANIZATION  
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OF AFRICAN UNITY OF HIS INTENTION TO PURCHASE A DC-8-63F IN THE UNITED STATES FOR USE AS A PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE PLANE.

B) THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY WILL RECALL INQUIRING IN ITS NOTE OF FEBRUARY 13, 1974 ADDRESSED TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES ABOUT THE SALE AND USE OF A DC-8F EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES IN

OCT. 1972 AND NOW REPORTEDLY ENGAGED IN TRADE WITH RHODESIA. THE EMBASSY OF UNITED STATES IN ITS REPLY OF (FOR ADDIS: INDICATE EXACT DATE) RELATED THE HISTORY OF THE DC-8F AIRCRAFT SALE WHICH WAS BASED UPON PRIOR ASSURANCES BY THE GABONESE GOVERNMENT THAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE USED CONTRARY TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA.

C) IN VIEW OF THE STATED INTEREST OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY IN THE APPARENT USE IN TRADE WITH RHODESIA OF THE DC-8F PREVIOUSLY SOLD TO A GABONESE COMPANY, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WISHES TO INQUIRE WHETHER THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY WOULD HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO THE PURCHASE IN THE UNITED STATES OF A DC-8-63F AIRCRAFT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GABON.  
(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING). KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT SALES, EXPORT LICENSES, EMBARGOES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE077438  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** AF/C:HJCOHEN:JHALL  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740088-0552  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 132  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** A) ADDIS 2143 B) STATE 040556  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO WISHES PURCHASE OF DC-8 IN U.S.  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EGEN, ETRD, US, RH, GB, OAU, (BONGO, ALBERT-BERNARD)  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005